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DESCRIBES UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF IN SHANGHAI

CHU SSU-HSIN DISCUSSES UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF -- Shanghai Lao-tung Pao, 5 Jul 50

On 2 July 1950, Chu Ssu-hsin (1) /numbers refer to appended characters/, spoke on the "Activity Report of the Provisional Shanghai Unemployed Workers' Relief Committee," at the organization ceremony of the Shanghai Unemployed Workers' Relief Committee in Shanghai. The following excerpts are from Chu's speech;

A preliminary survey shows that there are 150,000 unemployed workers in Shanghai. The Shanghai General Labor Union, in conformity with directives of the Shanghai Municipal Party Committee and the All-China Federation of Labor (ACFL), formulated an unemployed relief plan at the 8th Standing Committee meeting on 12 April 1950. On 22 April 1950, the ACFL issued a directive appealing to all working comrades in China to help unemployed workers in Shanghai and other cities.

The appeal received an immediate response from the labor unions in Shanghai. They held conferences to propagandize aid to the unemployed. Some union members pledged to give 7 or 8 days of their wages while others pledged to give one day's wage each month. Subscriptions in funds and goods reached 8,712,500,863.58 yuan, and the donations of workers' wages totaled 3,412,813,454.09 yuan.

The Shanghai People's government, besides appropriating one billion yuan of its reserve funds for relief, directed the Shanghai Grain Company to extend a loan of foodstuffs. The Shanghai Municipal Party Committee made appeals to Party members for donations and started subscription campaigns in various areas.

After the issuance of the ACFL's nation-wide appeal, workers in the Northeast gave 6,379,144,260 yuan to aid unemployed in Shanghai. Donations also came from such remote areas as Sinkiang, Inner Mongolia, and the Southwest. The military, government agencies, and organized groups also contributed. All admission fees charged for the War Results Exhibit, which was sponsored by garrison units in Shanghai, were given to aid the unemployed.

Funds subscribed for unemployed relief, up to 30 June 1950, were: Shanghai and adjacent areas, 21,341,719,961.67 yuan; labor unions throughout the country, 16,403,938,706.58 yuan; PLA, 241,156,260 yuan; government agencies, organized groups, and schools, 1,175,141,283 yuan; industrial and commercial circles 3,421,813,454.09 yuan; and individuals and others 99,670,252 yuan.

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During the same period, the amount of foodstuff donated amounted to 7,648,998 catties, including 6 million catties from the East China Production For Relief Committee (the committee spent 2 billion yuan to purchase the foodstuff), 150,000 catties from the Third Field Army in East China, and 97,569 catties from government agencies and organized groups. The Ministry of Labor of the Central People's government has decided to concentrate on the work-relief or work-in-exchange-for-foodstuff projects in the future.

Prior to the establishment of the Provisional Shanghai Unemployed Workers' Relief Committee, the Shanghai General Labor Union was placed in custody of donations and was in charge of relief activities. The Labor Protection Department of the union organized a committee to take charge of relief donations and, with accumulated funds and goods, gave provisional relief to the unemployed.

After the establishment of the Provisional Shanghai Unemployed Workers' Relief Committee, all activities of the Labor Protection Department were transferred to the committee. Letters to comfort unemployed workers began to come in and, to date, some 22,000 such letters have been received by the committee. The Northeast General Labor Union sent a team to Shanghai to comfort and encourage the unemployed workers. The team gave talks at various labor unions and related difficulties encountered in the Northeast before better economic conditions returned to that area.

At the third Shanghai All Circles Delegates' Conference, Liu Ch'ang-sheng (2), chairman of the Shanghai General Labor Union, submitted an unemployed relief program which was passed unanimously. Subsequently, the Provisional Shanghai Unemployed Workers' Relief Committee was organized with Liu Ch'ang-sheng as its chairman, and Ma Shun-ku (3) and K'uei Yen-fang (4) as deputy chairmen.

The provisional committee began its work by assigning labor-union cadres to lower-level unions to make surveys of the unemployment situation. Unemployed workers were asked to make applications to various labor unions. Where a factory was shut down, the workers involved were given emergency relief en masse. Such was the case with the Hsin-shen, Ch'ung-hsin, Hung-chang, and Heng-t'ung cotton mills. Unemployed wharf, construction, and transport workers were given temporary relief by being fed at community kitchens. Unemployed workers sent back to rural areas to take part in local production were provided with transportation fees.

During the month and a half prior to 30 June 1950, the following relief funds and foodstuff were distributed: rice, 3,764,615.5 catties; relief funds, 71,228,550 yuan; loans to producers' cooperative factories, 31,500,000 yuan; and transportation fees, 93,259,100 yuan. In addition, 596 unemployed workers and 164 dependents were sent home to rural areas.

As for the study program for unemployed workers, the provisional committee sponsored 14 study classes to help train for changes in employment or to find better employment in other fields. Also 800 unemployed workers were organized into cadre training classes to specialize in relief work. In addition, the committee established producers' cooperative factories which employed unemployed workers to make blankets, leather shoes, and garments. All these programs gave temporary employment to some 1,000 unemployed. As for the work-relief projects, the committee mobilized 231 unemployed to participate in municipal public projects.

Many faults and errors were revealed in carrying out relief activities by the provisional committee. There was lack of good preliminary planning which created much confusion. There was lack of a sense of responsibility among cadres. They wasted time and money and distributed relief grain illegally and irrationally. Labor-union cadres took advantage of the unemployed relief work to gain members for their unions.

In view of the past experiences, the provisional committee wishes to recommend the following program to the next committee which will take over the relief work:

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Adhere strictly to the Central People's government directive concerning regulations on relief of unemployed workers. Apply them to formulate a definite relief program.

Expand the work-relief projects. Labor unions of all levels should maintain close liaison with each other in directing relief work and, at the same time, coordinate the work-relief projects with the study program for unemployed workers.

APPOINTS COMMITTEE OFFICIALS -- Shanghai Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 4 Jul 50

In accordance with the Government Administration Council directive establishing unemployed workers' relief committees and offices in cities where unemployment is prevalent, the Shanghai People's government announced the following appointments on 2 July 1950:

Shanghai Unemployed Workers' Relief Committee

Acting chairman -- Ch'en I (5)

Deputy chairmen -- Liu Ch'ang-sheng, Ma Shun-ku, and K'uei Yen-fang.

Committee members -- Wang Ken-chung (6) and 35 others.

Shanghai Unemployed Workers' Relief Office

Chief -- Chu Ssu-hsin

Deputy chief -- Yang Ping-ju (7)

CHARACTERS

1. 朱俊欣
2. 劉長勝
3. 馬純古
4. 黃延芳
5. 陳 毅
6. 王良仲
7. 楊秉儒

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